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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

ENLARGEMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-third session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had before it a draft resolution (E/CN.7/1989/L.7) concerning the enlargement of the membership of the Commission from 40 to 50 members, sponsored by Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nigeria, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates. The sponsors considered enlargement important in order to enhance the role of the Commission as a policy-making body for the United Nations on drug control matters and to fulfil its responsibilities under the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. They also considered that increased membership would reflect the growing interest of all States in contributing to efforts to solve the problems of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

2. Since many delegations were unable to take a position in the absence of instructions from their Governments, it was decided to consider the draft resolution further under item 9 ("Other urgent matters") of the provisional agenda for the eleventh special session.

3. At its eleventh special session, because of insufficient time, the Commission decided to defer consideration of the matter until its thirty-fourth session and to do so under a separate agenda item.

4. Thus, the Commission now has before it for consideration the question of whether or not to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the proposed enlargement of its membership.

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* E/CN.7/1991/1.

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